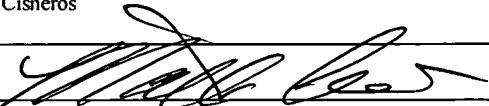


F / And
EA.E.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Typed or Printed Name	Martha Cisneros		
Signature		Date	January 31, 2003

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116		Attorney Docket Confirmation No.	GUID-003DIV2 2546
Address to: Box AF Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231		First Named Inventor	Charles S. Taylor
		Application Number	09/440,106
		Filing Date	November 15, 1999
		Group Art Unit	3736
		Examiner Name	Nasser, Robert L.
		Title	Surgical Devices for Imposing a Negative Pressure to Stabilize Cardiac Tissue During Surgery

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action dated November 4, 2002 for which a three-month period for response was given making this response due on or before February 4, 2003. In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks put forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Applicant has attached to this amendment a "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made" wherein all of the amendments requested here are put forth with underlining and bracketing.

Applicant submits that the amendments set forth below raise no new issues. Rather, the amendments place the claims in form for allowance or in better form for appeal. Entry of these amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant notes that those claims not amended herein are being reiterated solely for the convenience of the Examiner.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 2 as follows:

2. (Twice Amended) The device of claim 23 further comprising a means for introducing a negative pressure located between said internal and external walls.

RECEIVED
FEB 03 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700
0944016
01/31/2003 AIA/NDAF1 000000021 500015
420.00 CH
02 FC:1202
01 FB:1201